

The Herald

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Monmouth Meditations

Military enthusiasm is beginning to manifest the hilarious enthusiasm of a soap bubble that has been pricked.

Summer school has its last session today at the Normal and next week the misses will be missed from our midst.

That indispensable institution in the production of bread and beer, the hop, will soon demand public attention.

The old Indian's prophecy that we were to have no summer this year is verging too close to fulfillment to be comfortable.

A valued exchange tritely says "we are so little used to commending our neighbors that when a compliment does come, it appears like flattery".

The old saw "Make hay while the sun shines" is unusually significant this year and the loaded wagon has during the past week kept up a continual procession from the field to the barn.

The captain of the Deutchland must take considerable pleasure in announcing his intention to start on the return trip, and then postponing the same, merely for its psychological effect on the waiting warriors outside.

Remembering the general effect and results of watermelon on a crowd in his former Louisiana home, Mr. Pittman, the other night, tried the effects of a feed of the same on his rural school class. And they do say all had a rousing, royal good time.

The political situation might be figured this year as to a class in arithmetic. In 1912 President Wilson had 6,292,670 popular votes. In 1908 Bryan had 6,405,707 votes. In 1900 Bryan had 6,357,643 popular votes. In 1900 and 1908 the Republican

party was united. In 1912 it was divided. In 1916 it is united again. Now who has the solution? Don't all speak at once.

Mr. McLeod the contractor, familiarly known as Mac, tells of a recent automobile experience in which he encountered a tract of gravel. He says the sight would have filled Henry Ford with pride. The machine reared in the air as prettily as a broncho and came gracefully down and then waltzed on through the gravel. Mac is quite a promoter and we expect him soon to start a "round-up" where the riders will be limited to Fords.

The advertisement of the United railways will be noticed in another column of the Herald. This is an advertisement inserted in every paper in the United States and is an evidence that the railroads believe in the justice of their cause inasmuch as they are appealing to the intelligence and judgment of the whole people. It is well to read their side of the case in order to understand on what general grounds they are opposing the proposed general strike among railroad men.

That Prof. Gentle is one of the most versatile men in Oregon is the belief of many of his Monmouth friends. Among the farmers he is a typical granger, ready to pitch a load of hay or milk a cow; among teachers he is recognized as exceptionally competent, alert and forceful and always practical; and when he dons a high collar and a coat with a claw hammer tail and mounts the lecture rostrum he is one of the best entertainers in the state. A keen observer and a master of the story teller's art, his ready wit is constantly in evidence and his modesty is most becoming. He deservedly occupies a high place in the regard not only of the Normal folks but of the people of Monmouth.

The literary world mourns this week the death of James Whitcomb Riley. His pall bearers at the funeral, which was held Tuesday, were the best that Indiana has to offer at present and included Vice-President Marshal and ex-Vice-President Fairbanks, the two Indiana U. S. senators, and the lights of Indiana literature including George Ade and Meredith Nicholson. Riley's personal habits lost him the respect of many good people but he has been honored as few poets have been in this or any other land. And his works will remain, for their literary quality is unique. He used English as the juggler tosses balls and rings and knives and hundreds of his

rhymed lines will stand the despair of would be imitators. Because he was understandable his works are beloved by plain people and he dealt with the homely experiences to life that are familiar to all. The high brow may extract from Browning a wisdom that the poet never even dreamed of or he may browse in "Leaves of Grass" and wonder what it is all about but when he comes to an extract like this: "And the long highway, with sunshine spread As thick as butter on country bread; Our cares behind and our hearts ahead, Out to old Aunt Mary's". he knows all about it. It is a common experience except that the poet has photographed it and preserved it for record in an unusual manner. Hats off to the memory of James Whitcomb Riley.

Paving Question

The following relative to our paving situation from the Dallas Observer might be classified as important, if true and as far as it goes.

"It is held by Prosecuting Attorney Sibley that the street in question is a county road—that the road was laid out in July, 1855 while Monmouth was not platted until 1857, one year after the property now occupied by the normal school for that purpose. The attorney further says that the county has always worked and maintained this road through Monmouth, paying for such work from the county fund. The city charter of Monmouth provides that all streets and highways within the corporation shall be city streets, but no provision is made as to how these streets shall be maintained and consequently the supreme court has maintained in cases similar in character that it is not sufficient to constitute possession. Dallas' city charter, is practically identical.

"Under these circumstances it would appear to those legally informed upon the subject that the remonstrators are acting within their rights as property owners and the proposed betterment may be brought to a standstill."

The Observer also states that Portland legal talent agrees with Sibley. We ask—Does a county road carry with it the right to control taxation of the property that borders it? If so some illegal taxes have been collected in Monmouth. If not what difference does it make whether the road belongs to city or county.

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